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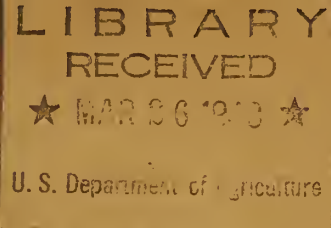
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FOOD PRODUCTION IN 1943



Broadcast by Herbert W. Parisius, Director, Food Production Administration, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, December 22, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue network.

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KADDERLY:

And in Washington, we invite your attention to the production side of the nation's food program.

As you may know, the agencies of the Department of Agriculture have recently been regrouped so as to handle administration of food program. There are three groups. Last Thursday we heard from the Director of the Food Distribution Administration. Day after tomorrow we'll hear the head of the Agricultural Research Administration. Today the Director of the Food Production Administration talks to the farmers of the nation about their 1943 war job.

I'm glad to present Mr. Herbert W. Parisius.

PARISIUS:

I wish we could tell you today that we know all the answers to the problems involved in the Nation's wartime food production program in 1943. We shall be perfectly frank and say that we do not. But we can assure you that the Food Production Administration is clearly aware of its tremendous responsibility. We can assure you, also, that we have pledged all our abilities and resources to the task of meeting our own feed needs, and those of the nations who are fighting and working side by side with us in this war.

The job of producing food has never been simple. The war has made it more complicated. Today we cannot tell you how much food we will produce in 1943-- but we have set our goals for the greatest production in history.

What is more significant, we have asked farmers to make shifts that will shape their production to meet the special needs of the United Nations. We know that the need for food produced by United States farmers is the greatest in history--especially for meat, dairy and poultry products, and the oil crops. We know in a fairly specific way the problems farmers will have in getting necessary labor, equipment and supplies. If we have good weather and we use our resources fully, we feel confident United States farmers can produce the food we need. We do not say we will have all we want of all kinds of food, but we can expect to have enough food for an adequate and nutritious diet.

The Food Production Administration is primarily concerned with the production of food on the farm, and in securing the means to produce food. But, of course, producing food means much more than just growing it. You have to get it to market. Then you have to ship it to processing plants. We shall work closely with the Department's Food Distribution Administration to supply food when it is needed, and where it is needed.

We have just returned from four regional meetings, where we talked over the farm job in 1943 with agricultural leaders in every State. The whole background of food requirements, the problems before us, and the programs that have been worked out to assist farmers, were discussed thoroughly. All these leaders work with farmers in one way or another, and many are farmers themselves. Their reaction to the job before us gives us some pretty good clues to what we can expect.

These agricultural leaders believe most farmers can make the shifts in production we are asking them to make. In light of the emphasis which has been put on essential products, this is highly significant. Of course, it won't be easy, and farmers expect the Department to help as much as possible. Right here I want to say the Food Production Administration will give farmers maximum assistance.

From my experience at the regional meetings, I judge that farmers feel reasonably confident about livestock production unless something unforeseen happens. They'll have plenty of livestock and record feed supplies.

As to dairy production, they wonder if they can get adequate labor. At the same time, they feel a great responsibility for producing milk. They know what dairy products mean in the diets of United States fighters and factory workers on war production lines, and to the fighters and workers of the other United Nations.

Farmers are concerned also about transportation--about facilities to get their products to market. They are thinking pretty seriously, too, about their ability to get enough machinery and other equipment, and labor.

From an over-all standpoint, the Nation can be assured that farmers are ready to do everything humanly possible to give full support to the United Nations war effort by producing essential crops and livestock to the limit. Farmers know that farm production is war production. About one-fourth of all the food we produce next year is ear-marked for military use at home and for shipment across the oceans for our own fighters and our Allies. To farmers, this means they are on the front line of war production. They know that to carry the United Nations' offensive to a victorious climax, food must go with our guns, tanks and planes. Farmers are rolling their sleeves up higher to get their job done in 1943.

To help get the farm production job done next year, the agencies represented by the Food Production Administration are shaping up a nationwide campaign to mobilize all agricultural resources. The regional meetings were the "kick-off." Plans are being made now in every State and county to help every farmer plan his individual production so that we can obtain the most effective and fullest possible production from each farm unit. A complete plan of operations for each farm will be worked out, including information on the credit, materials and other assistance each farmer will need to get his job done. In a very few weeks, the agricultural stage will be set for full performance on the biggest U. S. farm job in history.

President Roosevelt set forth the importance of this task last week when he proclaimed next January 12 as the 1943 Farm Mobilization Day. On this day he has asked every farmer to "gather wherever possible with Department of Agriculture representatives, state officials, Extension Service agents, vocational teachers, farm organizations, and others concerned, in order to discuss ways and means of insuring for the year 1943 the maximum production of vital foods upon every farm in this country."

In his proclamation the President said, "Farm Mobilization Day should be a symbol of a free America, a symbol of the might and productivity of our Nation, and a symbol of the unalterable determination to put to full use our agricultural resources, as well as our other resources, in the achievement of complete victory."

The President has sized up our job very well. If every farmer and agricultural worker realizes how much the food we produce in 1943 can hasten the victory, and help vitally to set the pattern of our life for generations, I am sure we cannot fail. This is not a war of battle fronts alone. It is being fought in factories, in the stores, in our homes--and on the farms. We have the strength, the ingenuity, and the resources to do the job. If we use them to the utmost effect, we need not worry about the outcome.

KADDERLY:

In this discussion of food production in 1943, you have heard Herbert W. Parisius, Director of the Department of Agriculture's Food Production Administration. This agency combines Triple A, Farm Security, Farm Credit and other agencies concerned primarily with food production. The Food Production Administration is one of the three agencies operating under direction of the Secretary of Agriculture in administration of the nation's food program.

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